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Monday, January 20, 1913.

Lord Basil Blackward says that he has found reporters "a bore." No doubt the reporters could easily reciprocate.

Both parties promised good roads legislation. They did this because both parties understood that the people want good roads in Utah. And now for the redemption of the promises!

A Pittsburgh man is suing for divorce because his wife declared four years ago that she would live with any man but let her sue for the divorce.

Three hundred women of Cincinnati, says the Tribune of that city, have given a "dove" party, from which men are excluded. But the men, no doubt, call it a "hen" party, through mean jealousy.

Twelve years ago, President-elect Wilson wrote: "No statesman dreams of doing what he pleases." It is to be presumed, however, that he as a present-day statesman, intends to change all that.

"Of course the elevator boy here at Boston's big big yesterday can't marry all the girls he saved," says the Boston Globe, voicing the prejudice of the effete East. But why not? They have done things better in Utah.

Governor Blaise of South Carolina is demanding a law in his State "against misquoting public men." But no quoting of him would be possible that was not an improvement on what he actually said, and this would be "misquotation."

Governor-elect Dunn of Illinois struck a fair blow at the inflated cost of living when he refused a cup of coffee at a restaurant when the price was thirty-five cents. If everyone would follow his example, and refuse to pay overcharge, prices would come down on the run.

After a quarrel about the proper composition of a salad dressing a New York waiter was thrashed by a diner. "Does one gather from this that the waiter was wrong and the diner right?" asks the Cleveland Plain Dealer. What one gathers from it is that it was the waiter that got the dressing.

A good deal of interest is taken in the discussion of the means of execution of a death sentence. But what is more urgently needed than anything else is amendment of the court practice whereby many who deserve hanging shall be brought to the gallows, or the bullet, or the electrocution chair, as the case may be.

The proposition to operate the general transcontinental trains through the mountains by power furnished by the electric combine here, one of the biggest in the world, is bringing nearer to practice one of the great dreams of humanity. Smokeless, an immense coal saver, efficient; what more could be asked.

The amended California Constitution requires a recess of a month between sessions of the legislative session. The idea was to have proposed legislation introduced and then give the month to consider it; enacting in the second session of the session such bills as were best approved. But the Progressive legislature is paying no attention to the deliberation contemplated, and is jamming through as much legislation as possible, in the first session of the session. Whereat there is much natural complaint, which, as usual, is unheeded.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat has this appreciative summary of "Uncle Joe's" long career in Congress: "Mr. Cannon, who retired from the House on March 4, having been defeated for reelection, is to be given a dinner by the Democrats and Republicans of that chamber on February 15 as a mark of appreciation by the country for his long and distinguished public service. Uncle Joe entered the House in 1873 and has been there ever since, except for one term, that of 1891-92, for which he failed of election. Like 1912, 1890 was a Democratic tidal wave year, and many districts with large normal Republican majorities were lost. Thus he has served thirty-eight years, or longer than any other man ever sat in that chamber. Elected to the Speakership for four successive terms, or eight years, he exceeded the record of Stevenson, Colfax,

Blaine, Carlisle, Reed or any other man in that post except Clay, who held it for ten years, but his service was broken by several resignations."

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES.

Never has there been so much activity in the way of proposing important legislation at the opening of a Legislature in this State as was developed during last week. The variety of legislation proposed was very great and the importance of it was quite as great as the variety.

The bill proposed by Representative Barnes to enforce honesty in advertising and to punish fraud therein will be generally approved by the public. Customer who pay their good money want to know that they have been honestly dealt with, and this bill, if enacted into law, would probably help to that end. It is fair to say in this connection that the business houses established in Salt Lake have a record in this respect that needs no legislation to amend.

A number of party pledges are to be redeemed by legislation. Where both the Democratic and Republican party promised in their platforms such legislation it is no more than honest that the legislation should be passed. At the same time, some of these propositions are of doubtful merit, as the establishment of primaries, compulsory voting, and other measures of that kind. The abolition of the voting machines, however, would free the voters from a sort of restriction and compulsion under which they now labor much to their disadvantage and from which they should be released. The proposition to abolish party emblems would add to the uncertainty of the voter, while the enactment of the initiative referendum and recall would be distinct reversions to an anti-republican system of government. The proposition to require the publication of campaign contributions is doubtless intended to purify the election processes and in so far as it would do that it is to be commended. In all this the great desideratum is to preserve and enforce the individual rights of the voters and to enforce the purity of elections.

A problem that will be quite a serious one for the Legislature to solve will be to adjust the appropriations to the needs of the public service. There has been a sort of era of extravagance fostered and practiced which must be settled for, and which cannot be met by imposing more taxes. The fact is that the taxes are already pretty high, and to add to them would be burdensome to the people. There appears to be in Utah officialdom a sentiment that it is a good thing to get out of the people every possible cent for public expenditures, and there has been too much acting upon that line. The rights of the people to an economical government have been too much ignored in favor of the idea that large expenditures are necessary in order to carry on the public business properly and efficiently. But the sentiment for increased expenditures has reached such a point now that the people have become disgusted with it, and that disgust was shown emphatically in the defeat of the eight proposed constitutional amendments last November. The voters generally understood that those amendments would increase taxation. This was denied prior to the election, but now is admitted, and the fact that the increased revenues expected under the adoption of those amendments are now impossible is much deplored in officialdom.

It is unfortunate that our constitution is so framed that the right adjustment of taxation is impossible under it. But at least the people can prevent the further swelling of the flood of lavish expenditure by keeping the limitations where they are. We could, of course, raise even more money than we do now for State purposes through a proper system of taxation and at less inconvenience to the tax payers. But there has been no effective proposition to that end. In fact, there cannot be without a complete rebuilding of our system of taxation.

The legislature is doing nobly by taking hold of vital questions promptly and earnestly, and we trust that there will be no cessation in this activity, but that bills will be pressed to their passage or defeat while interest in them is alive. And the Legislature should so frame its rules that it will be impossible to revive and keep reviving, so as to take up the time of the Legislature, bills, propositions, and principles that have already been disposed of. This latter is the common objection to early legislative activity. For, under the usual practice if a measure is defeated in the early session of the legislative time, the supporters of that measure will keep thrusting it at the legislature in different forms right along to the end of the session. But the Legislature could prevent by rule this blocking of its progress, and ought to do so by positive and stringent rule from the first; otherwise, there is nothing gained at all by early action on any measure whatever. This we consider a most important matter for the consideration of the Legislature, and trust that it will be attended to by concurrent rule of both Houses, a rule to be enforced as stringently as the Legislature can find possible, preventing the revival of propositions already disposed of. Without it, what is done is never finished as long as the Legislature is in session.

It's different in prohibition Kansas. Thus the Topeka State Journal considering the parcel post, says, "No matter how popular it has become with the people, the parcel post is evidently not without its disadvantages. Here comes a carrier on a rural route who declares it deprives him of revenue he receives for hauling express packages on the side and also from one drink and

a ten cent bonus for each jug that he thus delivered."

INAUGURATION SIMPLICITY.

Governor Sulzer of New York was inaugurated with what is called "ostentatious simplicity," which is almost worse than the most elaborate ceremonial. Sulzer walked to the capitol at Albany in a business suit that was not new and took the oath of office without any display or ceremonial. And this was pronounced Democratic simplicity. Next morning he was about early, to see what the papers said about it.

There is a good deal of sentiment in favor of such a simple inaugural for Governor Wilson. But, on the other hand, the pressure appears to be practically irresistible in favor of a good deal of ostentation and display. A guaranty fund to pay the cost of such display now amounts to \$350,000. Of course, the Government makes no contribution to any such fund, and such pomp and costly display as may be indulged in is a Presidential inauguration has to be paid for by those in charge of it.

The sentiment for an unostentatious inauguration is to considerable degree based upon a fake story written by John Davis, an English traveler, who knew personally nothing about it, but picked up some gossip as to the inauguration of Jefferson. This gossip was that President Jefferson rode along Pennsylvania avenue on horseback, hitched his horse to a fence, and went over to the capitol, and without any display or ceremonial took the oath of office as President. But the New York Tribune brings forward from the narration by William Eleroy Channing, in his "True Thomas Jefferson," the correct account of Jefferson's inauguration. From this account it is learned that at the time of his inauguration Jefferson was living at Conrad's boarding house, which still stands on New Jersey avenue, not far from the capitol, in the same rooms he had occupied during his term as Vice President. From there he was escorted to the capitol by a battalion of soldiers on foot, while a salute of honor was fired by a battery from Alexandria. Mr. Jefferson walked between Samuel Baxter of Massachusetts, the Secretary of the Treasury in the Adams administration, and Benjamin Stoddert of Maryland, Secretary of the Navy, these being the only members of President Adams's Cabinet who remained in Washington for the inauguration of Jefferson, who succeeded Adams. Adams himself, the retiring President, "in childish pique and to the humiliation of his friends, before daylight on inauguration day fled like a fugitive in a carriage to Baltimore to avoid the disagreeable duty of assisting in the installation of the man who had defeated him."

This is undoubtedly the true account of the way in which Jefferson proceeded to his inauguration. He was escorted by a battalion of soldiers, and he walked between two distinguished Cabinet officers of the previous administration, while the Presidential salute was being fired at Alexandria. That is quite a different matter from riding horseback alone along Pennsylvania avenue to the capitol, tying his horse to a fence, and going in and taking the oath of office.

It is probably true that the pomp and ceremony of inaugurating a President of the United States has in recent years grown too great. The people as a rule would like to see a little less of that high display. And yet there is a justification for it in this, that the President is the chief executive of the mightiest Nation on earth, which can afford to be lavish, and large numbers of its citizens delight in display such as the pomp of an inauguration; and it is likely that the ceremonies at the inauguration of President Wilson will be little if any short of the display seen at the inauguration of any recent President. The truth is that Abraham Lincoln at his first inauguration came nearer to the ideal of Democratic simplicity than any other President in his taking of the office.

The recent calling off by Mr. Wilson of the inauguration ball is in direct line with simplifying the ceremonies; but it is likely enough that society-loving Washington may insist upon the ball whether or no; for, without ceremony and display official Washington is lost.

PATROLLING FOR ICEBERGS.

The action of the Navy Department in having our cruisers act as scouts for icebergs on the steamship routes has been universally approved, as tending to prevent disaster and save lives. There seems to be a wonderful increase in the icebergs, beginning with last year, and those icebergs are found in great number much further south than ever before, indicating winters of unusual severity in the Arctic zone.

The prevalence of icebergs and the danger of encountering them have caused the moving of the North Atlantic steamship "lanes" one degree further south. This slightly increases the length of the voyage, but immeasurably increases the safety of the ships and the passengers. There has been a marked subsidence among sea-going passengers of the rage for speed since the destruction of the Titanic. Safety is now the great desideratum rather than speed. And in accordance with the newly awakened desire for safety above everything else, there has been an increase in safety appliances in the steamships, and in the building of the ships so that watertight compartments should be at all times fully available, as they were not on the Titanic at the time she struck the ice.

The move to have the steamships go sixty miles south of the old "lanes" is undoubtedly another move in the line of safety, and will be welcomed accordingly. The scout cruisers of the

Navy will co-operate with the steamship lines in this effort for safety, and by this co-operation and the change of route it is hoped, with a great deal of reasonable probability, that the danger of the ocean passage will be enormously minimized.

NO CALL FOR ECONOMY.

The prevalent tone in Utah officialdom with respect to public revenue and expenditure is precisely the reverse of that generally expressed in the different States throughout the Union. Almost everywhere there is a demand for economy, for reduced taxation, and for the relief of the people. In Utah the tone is quite the reverse. It is a wall over defeated efforts to get more money out of the taxpayers, and a demand for greater revenue, with scarcely a thought or suggestion of economy or entrenchment of expenditure. To be sure, the Governor says in his message, along towards the close, after setting forth that the revenue unfortunately cannot be increased to meet the estimate of expenditures:

It is incumbent, therefore, that your departmental, institutional, and other committees be at work early in their investigations of the needs of all State departments and State institutions. Especially do I urge the early organization of your appropriation committees to the end that a most thorough inquiry into the revenue possibilities of the next two years be made, and that when the pruning process comes, as it surely must, curtailment of appropriations will be made where it can best be accomplished without seriously handicapping the efficient discharge of the duty imposed by statute.

Even here, where reference is made, apparently with regret, to the necessity of a pruning process later on, there is connected with it a suggestion that the utmost revenue possibilities be availed of and that the pruning process be applied where it would do the least harm, which latter proposition, of course, is sound and proper. But there is the note of regret that there should be any necessity to prune at all. The whole tone of the message is "spend, spend, and take in every possible dollar."

There is recommendation for exhaustive exhibits at various expositions, with a tolerant word for extravagance in these, and there is a constant note throughout the message of disappointment that more money cannot be made available for State purposes. There is no systematic or well grounded proposition for retrenchment or economizing. It is all for expenditure, with a curious note of regret that there is not some way available to make the people pay more money for the gratification of those who wish to spend it.

The unique position of Utah in this matter is worthy of note, both because of the tendency to large expenditure in itself, and because of this being the only State administration that we have noticed that takes this tone towards the taxpaying public.

FOR ONE-MAN GOVERNMENT.

We have gone over the ground recently of the advisability of the one-man form of city government. This one-man form has been in excellent use in Staunton, Va., the birthplace of President Wilson. Staunton was for a long time hopelessly held back by reason of the impossibility of getting rid of the old and wasteful municipal forms of government; but ingenuity will prevail, and under the old form, while there was a city council and all that sort of thing, all agreed that one man should do the public business for the city. They got a good man, and he, without any increasing taxation, brought the city out in the way of improvements, streets, grades, and public benefits in wonderful degree. Other towns have done the same, and now we have a new illustration of the efficiency of a one-man government for the city. We find in The Independent the following account, illustrating the benefit of the one-man rule in municipal affairs:

Fort Kent is a little town in Maine which three years ago found itself \$21,000 in debt. As the town raised only about \$25,000 a year in taxes it was felt that something was wrong, as this debt had been created within a few years. One Jean O. Michaud was asked to take the chairmanship of the board of selectmen and try to get the town out of debt. He, however, refused to take it unless they would elect him as well to the position of road commissioner, overseer of the poor, school commissioner and whatever other administrative offices the town charter called for. His proposition was accepted, and he was elected to these various offices, the only other two officers of importance in the town being two selectmen who worked with him. At the end of two years' time the town was entirely out of debt, and this year it expects to have some surplus money to put into permanent improvements, this all being done without raising any more taxes than formerly. The success was due to better management and closer supervision of expenditures.

All of which shows that when a city can get a good business man to devote his time and attention to the management of its municipal affairs, the best possible results follow the change.

It is to be hoped that President-elect Wilson may not often give way to the temptation to say "smart" and silly things as he did in his Chicago address, when he said, "I am not indicting the banking methods of America; our banking system does not need to be indicted; it has been convicted." Ignoring the point that indictment comes before conviction, it is fair to say that this jab at the banking system of this country as criminal is not only utter trash, it is a foolish assault, for no business is conducted on a higher plane as a rule than the business of banking; and no business men deserve less to be likened to criminals than do bankers.

Regulations at the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis get down to the minutest details. Thus, the cadets who dance are required to keep their left arms straight at all times, and an interval of three inches is specified as to be observed between partners in the waltz. And it is said that the girls join the cadets in disgusted comment.

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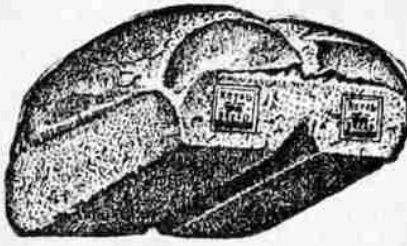
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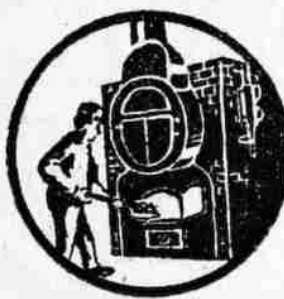
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